

Extract from  
Interrogation of Hideki Tojo  
14 March 1946

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- Q. There is one thing that I am not quite clear about. The Supreme Command, generally speaking, is represented by the Army Chief of Staff and the Navy Chief of Staff. That is not the same as Imperial Headquarters, is it?
- A. Imperial Headquarters [Daihonei] drew its membership from the Army and Navy General Staffs and the Army and Navy Ministries. From the Army General Staff the Chief of Staff the Assistant Chief of Staff, all the bureau heads [buchō] and nearly all the section heads [kachō] and some other members of the Staff, as necessary, attended. From the War Department, the War Minister, the Vice Minister, a majority of the Bureau heads [kyoku cho], and a few other members, as necessary, attended. I suppose that the membership from the Navy side was similar, although I am not sure. As War Minister, I attended in the capacity of a participant [sanka-kusha], although I was not properly a member. In my capacity as participant, I was assisted by the Vice Minister of War and the head of the Personnel Section. The Imperial Headquarters was created to meet the needs of the war and, since one of those needs was for personnel, I attended for that reason, having administrative charge of personnel.

Three things were wrong with Imperial Headquarters. The first was that, although it was intended to be a joint Army-Navy set-up, in practice, it was divided into an Army section and a Navy section, Army General Staff and War Department personnel going into the Army section and Navy Staff and Navy Department personnel going into the Navy section.

The second thing was that there were no government people in the set-up. It was all Army-Navy.

The third thing was that there was no one in a position to hold it together. It was set up on 20 November 1937 in connection with the China Incident. Having been set up during the first year of the China Incident, it had a great deal of influence on the Government at the time preceding

the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War. Since its utterances were not voiced as coming from the Army General Staff or the Navy General Staff but from Imperial Headquarters, the government had to give them a great deal of importance.

Q. Did the Emperor have anything to do with Imperial Headquarters?

A. The Emperor was at the head of it. This chart shows the set-up. [See reproduction attached.] As to the place where Imperial Headquarters met, the Army part of it met in the Army General Staff offices, and the Navy part of it met in the Navy General Staff offices.

Q. Then, how was the Army part of Imperial Headquarters different from the Army General Staff?

A. The people in the General Staff were there in the capacity of bureau chief, section chief, or what not, but they also had a capacity as a member of the Army section of Imperial Headquarters. Actually, the two bodies were very much the same in fact, except that the members of the War Department also came under the Chief of Staff when acting in the capacity of members of Imperial Headquarters.

Q. You mean, then, that after Imperial Headquarters was set up in 1937, the Chief of Staff held more power than he had held previous to that time?

A. Yes, because he came to have control over members of the War Department as well as control over the members of the General Staff which he had had before.

Q. How often did Imperial Headquarters meet?

A. I am not too sure, since it was pretty much run by the Army and Navy Chiefs of Staff. However, I think that it met once or twice a week.

Q. Was the Emperor present at every meeting?

A. No. Usually he was not there, only on special occasions.

Q. When a full meeting of Imperial Headquarters of both Army and Navy sections was held, where was it held?

- A. In the Palace.
- Q. How often were those joint ones held?
- A. As I said before, once or twice a week.
- Q. You mean the joint meetings?
- A. Yes. Of course when there was more business, there were more meetings.
- Q. What was the difference in function between Imperial Headquarters and the Supreme War Council?
- A. They were completely different. Imperial Headquarters was concerned with operations and tactics /sakusen yohei/ in which secrecy was necessary and, therefore they did not consult the Supreme War Council on these matters. The Supreme War Council was concerned with many matters, such as research, inspections, military education, military training, and, in general, with advice on military matters.

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EXHIBIT NO. 1979

Doc. 2511B

一九四六年／昭和二十一年／二月十四日

東條英機 質問ヨリ、抜萃

一 一 二 三 頁

(問)

私ニ良ク分リテ事柄がツアリヌ。  
大休トシテ総帥部ハ参謀總長ト軍令部長ト  
代表サシスガソレハ大本營トハ違フデセウカ。

(答)

大本營ハ人事ハ参謀本部、軍令部及陸海軍  
兩省、者カラ編成サシキミシク、参謀本部カラハ参  
謀總長、参謀次長、部長全部、殆ト全部、  
課長及必要ニ應ジテ其他、部員が出席シミシク。  
陸軍省カラハ陸軍大臣、次官、殆ト、局長及必要ニ  
應ジテ他、部員モ少数出席シミシク。確カデハアリセウカ海  
軍側モ同様タルト思ヒス。陸軍大臣タル私ハ本末  
ノ一員デハアリセウカ分参畫者トシテ出席シミシク。  
参畫者、資格デ、私、陸軍次官 及人事課長、  
輔佐ヲ受ケミシク。大本營ハ戦争、諸要求ニ應ズル為創  
設サタデツテ、諸要求、一ハ人事ニアリテ人事行  
政ヲ擔当シテ中ク私が、理由デ出席シタデス。

大本營ニミ、決案ガミシク、陸海軍  
共同、機構ニシテモ拘メスガ宜シサルトナルト  
陸軍部ト海軍部ト分レ参謀本部陸軍省關係  
者ハ陸軍部、海軍省關係者ハ海軍部  
ニ入グトミシク。



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第二ハ、機構ニ政府側ノ者カハラナイテ全部陸海軍デ占メラレ  
テキヲトデシタ。

第三ハ、ソレヲ統合シ得ル者ガ居ナクコトデス。大本營ハ支那事變  
ニ應ジテ一九三七年ノ昭和十二年ノ十一月二十日ニ設ケラレミタ。  
支那事變ノ一年目ニ設ケラレテ大東亞戰爭ノ勃發前ノ時  
期ニ政府ニ對シ非常ニ勢ヲ持ツテキミシタ。ソノ發言ハ  
參謀本部又ハ軍令部カラトシテハナク大本營カラトシテ  
ナリテキタノデ政府ハコレヲ非常ニ重要視シナケレバナリマセン  
デシタ。

(問) 天皇陛下ハ大本營ト關係カ有リデシタカ。

(答) 陛下ハソノ長デアラレミタ。ソノ機構ハコトウヤウナモノデシタ。

條附ノ寫參照大本營會議カ行ハレタ場所ニツイテハ陸  
軍部ハ參謀本部デ海軍部ハ軍令部デ會合シミシタ。

(問) ソレデハ大本營ノ陸軍部ト參謀本部トハドウ違ッテ居  
テスカ。

(答) 參謀本部ノ人達ハ局長・課長或ハソノ他ノ資格デ大  
本營ニ居リミシタ。彼等又大本營陸軍部ノ員タル資格  
ヲ持ツテキミシタ。實際ニハソレヲソノ機關ハ事實上殆ド同じモ  
ノデシタ。クハ陸軍省ノ者モ大本營ノ者トシテ行動スル場合ハ  
參謀總長ノ下ニアリマシタ。

(問) ソレデハ大本營ガ一九三七年ノ昭和十二年ニ設ケラレタ後ハ參  
謀總長ハ従前ニ増シテ權能ヲ持ッタト云フ訳デスカ。

(答) サウデス。何トナレバ參謀總長ハ彼ガ以前參謀本部ノ者ニ  
對シテ持ツテキタ統禦權ノ外ニ陸軍省ノ者ニ對スル統禦  
權ヲモ併セテ有スルコトニナッタコトデス。

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(問) 大本營、會議ハトノ位、固催サレマシタカ。

(答) ソレハ殆ンド參謀總長、軍令部長ニヨリテ指圖サレテキマシタカ。  
私ハヨク知リマセレガ、一週向ニ、一二度ハ固催サレタト思ヒマス。

(問) 陛下ハ各會議ニ御出席ニナリマシタカ。

(答) イーエ、普通ハ御出席ニナリマセデ、特別ノ場合ニ御出席  
ニナリタカデス。

(問) 陸軍部、海軍部、双方参加、大本營、全體會議ガ固催セラレ  
タ時ニハ、ソレハ何處デ固催サレタカデス。

(答) 宮中デ行ハレマシタ。

(問) サウイフ全體會議ハ何度固催マシタカ。

(答) 前述シタ通り一週一度カ二度デス。

(問) 全體會議ガデス。

(答) サウデス、勿論、用件ガ多クハ會議モ多ク固催マシタ。

(問) 大本營ト軍事參議院ノ機能ハドウ違ッテ居マシタカ。

(答) 兩者ハ全然、違ッテ居マシタ。大本營ハ機密保持、要作戦用兵

ニ關係ガアリ、從ツテコレヲノ事柄、固シテハ軍事參議院ニ諮リモ  
シテ、軍事參議院ハ研究、檢閲、軍事、教育、軍事訓練  
、如キ、多ク事項、並ニ一般ニ軍事的事項ニ關スル意見、固陳  
ニ關係カアリマシタ。